

STATE OF NEW YORK

3797

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 30, 2021

Introduced by Sen. COMRIE -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Transportation

AN ACT to amend the public authorities law, in relation to requiring the metropolitan commuter transportation authority to obtain approval from the state comptroller to increase fares

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Subdivision 1 of section 1205 of the public authorities
2 law, as amended by chapter 717 of the laws of 1967, is amended to read
3 as follows:

4 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law, the terms of any
5 contract or franchise, the authority shall have the power at all times
6 to fix or adjust the rate or rates of fare to be charged for the use of
7 any transit facility operated by the authority as may in the judgment of
8 the authority be necessary to maintain the operations of the authority
9 on a self-sustaining basis, upon approval of the state comptroller
10 pursuant to section twelve hundred sixty-five-c of this article. The
11 operations of the authority shall be deemed to be on a self-sustaining
12 basis, as required by this title, when the authority is able to pay from
13 revenue, from any funds granted or transferred to the authority pursuant
14 to any provision of law, including funds granted pursuant to the
15 provisions of section ninety-eight-b of the general municipal law, and
16 from any other funds actually available to the authority, including the
17 proceeds of borrowings for working capital purposes, the expenses of
18 operation of the authority as the same shall become due.

19 § 2. Section 1207-i of the public authorities law, as amended by
20 section 17 of part O of chapter 61 of the laws of 2000, is amended to
21 read as follows:

22 § 1207-i. Rates of fare while bonds, notes and other obligations are
23 outstanding. Notwithstanding the provisions of section twelve hundred
24 five of this title or the provisions of any other law to the contrary,

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 so long as the authority shall have outstanding and unpaid bonds, notes
2 or other obligations issued pursuant to section twelve hundred seven-b
3 of this title, or the metropolitan transportation authority or Tribor-
4 ough bridge and tunnel authority shall have outstanding and unpaid
5 bonds, notes or other obligations secured by or payable from, in whole
6 or in part, the revenues, assets or other monies of the authority or its
7 subsidiary corporations, the authority shall have the power at all times
8 to fix or adjust the rate or rates of fare to be charged for the use of
9 any transit facility operated by the authority, upon approval of the
10 state comptroller pursuant to section twelve hundred sixty-five-c of
11 this article, as may, in the judgment of the board, be necessary to
12 produce sufficient revenues to pay, as the same shall become due, the
13 principal of and interest on such bonds, notes and other obligations of
14 the authority, metropolitan transportation authority and Triborough
15 bridge and tunnel authority, together with the maintenance of proper
16 reserves therefor, in addition to paying as the same shall become due
17 the expenses of operation of the authority. The authority, metropolitan
18 transportation authority and Triborough bridge and tunnel authority,
19 shall be authorized to contract with the holders of such bonds, notes
20 and other obligations with respect to the exercise of the power author-
21 ized by this section. In furtherance of the mandate of the metropolitan
22 transportation authority to develop and implement a unified mass trans-
23 portation policy for the metropolitan commuter transportation district
24 and the exercise of its powers, including the power to issue notes,
25 bonds and other obligations secured in whole or in part by the revenues
26 of the authority and its subsidiaries, metropolitan transportation
27 authority and its subsidiaries, and the Triborough bridge and tunnel
28 authority, the authority shall join with the metropolitan transportation
29 authority in connection with the establishment, levy and collection of
30 fares, tolls, rentals, rates, charges and other fees for the transporta-
31 tion of passengers on any transit facilities operated by authority and
32 its subsidiaries, including any changes thereto.

33 § 3. Subdivision 3 of section 1266 of the public authorities law, as
34 amended by chapter 314 of the laws of 1981, is amended to read as
35 follows:

36 3. ~~[The]~~ Except as provided in section twelve hundred sixty-five-c of
37 this title, the authority may establish, levy and collect or cause to be
38 established, levied and collected and, in the case of a joint service
39 arrangement, join with others in the establishment, levy and collection
40 of such fares, tolls, rentals, rates, charges and other fees as it may
41 deem necessary, convenient or desirable for the use and operation of any
42 transportation facility and related services operated by the authority
43 or by a subsidiary corporation of the authority or under contract, lease
44 or other arrangement, including joint service arrangements, with the
45 authority. Any such fares, tolls, rentals, rates, charges or other fees
46 for the transportation of passengers shall be established and changed
47 only if approved by resolution of the authority adopted by not less than
48 a majority vote of the whole number of members of the authority then in
49 office, with the chairman having one additional vote in the event of a
50 tie vote, except as provided in section twelve hundred sixty-five-c of
51 this title, and only after a public hearing, provided however, that
52 fares, tolls, rentals, rates, charges or other fees for the transporta-
53 tion of passengers on any transportation facility which are in effect at
54 the time that the then owner of such transportation facility becomes a
55 subsidiary corporation of the authority or at the time that operation of
56 such transportation facility is commenced by the authority or is

1 commenced under contract, lease or other arrangement, including joint
2 service arrangements, with the authority may be continued in effect
3 without such a hearing. Such fares, tolls, rentals, rates, charges and
4 other fees shall be established as may in the judgment of the authority
5 be necessary to maintain the combined operations of the authority and
6 its subsidiary corporations on a self-sustaining basis. The said oper-
7 ations shall be deemed to be on a self-sustaining basis as required by
8 this title, when the authority is able to pay or cause to be paid from
9 revenue and any other funds or property actually available to the
10 authority and its subsidiary corporations (a) as the same shall become
11 due, the principal of and interest on the bonds and notes and other
12 obligations of the authority and of such subsidiary corporations,
13 together with the maintenance of proper reserves therefor, (b) the cost
14 and expense of keeping the properties and assets of the authority and
15 its subsidiary corporations in good condition and repair, and (c) the
16 capital and operating expenses of the authority and its subsidiary
17 corporations. The authority may contract with the holders of bonds and
18 notes with respect to the exercise of the powers authorized by this
19 section. No acts or activities taken or proposed to be taken by the
20 authority or any subsidiary of the authority pursuant to the provisions
21 of this subdivision shall be deemed to be "actions" for the purposes or
22 within the meaning of article eight of the environmental conservation
23 law.

24 § 4. The public authorities law is amended by adding a new section
25 1265-c to read as follows:

26 § 1265-c. Approval of state comptroller. 1. The authority shall
27 submit a written report to the state comptroller prior to the date of
28 any increase in fares for the transportation of passengers takes effect.
29 Such report shall include a justification for such proposed fare
30 increase and the current financial condition of the authority. The state
31 comptroller may require any additional data or information that he or
32 she deems necessary in such report. No proposed fare increase shall take
33 effect until approved by resolution of the authority pursuant to section
34 twelve hundred sixty-six of this title and approved by the state comp-
35 troller.

36 2. This section shall not be deemed to adversely affect or diminish
37 any public hearing requirements.

38 § 5. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall
39 have become a law and shall apply to any fares increased on or after
40 such effective date.